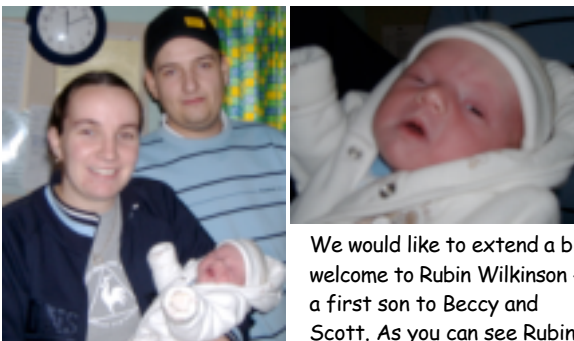


# Day Nursery News

"Welcome back to a new term and a New Year. I hope that 2006 is a very happy, healthy, and successful year for you and your family."

...and a big **thank-you** from the staff and I for all your cards and generous gifts. Many of us are still trying to burn off the extra inches we gained from eating all that delicious chocolate and drinking all that wine!!

## A very Special Announcement



We would like to extend a big welcome to Rubin Wilkinson - a first son to Beccy and Scott. As you can see Rubin

is a delightful baby - Congratulations to the proud parents.

## Thank You to Santa!



A fantastic time was had by all when Santa came to visit us during our Christmas party. He has asked me to pass on his sincere thanks to all the children for being so well behaved and hopes that they all enjoyed the presents he brought

to them on Christmas Day. He was especially thrilled by the looks on all the children's faces when he passed through the rooms.



## Nursery Leavers

We said our goodbyes to five children at Christmas, all of whom are greatly missed in our pre-

school. Our best wishes go to Thomas, Millie, Georgia, Jamie and Hannah. I'm sure that those of you who know these children will join us in wishing them all a very happy and successful future.

Heidi was extremely busy during December gathering together all the children's development records and pieces of work for parents to take home. As you know Heidi Marjorie and Louise complete the 'Dudley Early Years Profile' for every child in the pre-school. This profile is an assessment record that reflects all the Early Learning Goals in the Foundation Stage Curriculum and is used by the majority of reception teachers in the borough. It's great to know that schools are using the information we provide, to the benefit of the children.

My personal thanks go to Heidi, Kate and all the girls for all they managed to accomplish last term including a pre-school trip to Stanley's Farm Shop, a Sponsored Circuit Training Event for Children in Need, the Shoe Box appeal, Christmas parties and an unforgettable Christmas Play. Well Done and thank you to everyone - You're a fabulous team!

**Movers** It seems as though the children who have moved through to new rooms this term are settling in well, thanks to the nurturing and gentle encouragement of our very caring staff. Any initial tears were soon dried up and smiles of happiness were quickly discovered. Well done everyone.

**New families joining us** We extend a very warm welcome to all our new babies, children and their families. Thank you for choosing us and I am happy to say that the children who have started with us already are settling in well.

## Welcome to New Staff

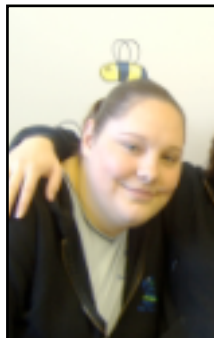
All those of you who have got to know our new nursery nurses Charlotte and Maria will agree with me that they have both quickly become great assets to the nursery.

Charlotte and Maria are fully qualified nursery nurses with the Diploma in Childcare and Education (DCE). Their maturity and responsible attitudes towards the children and their jobs is evident to all who work with them -congratulations to you both.

Maria also has a HND and two years of experience working in day nurseries in the Dudley borough.



*Charlotte Rudge  
(Kindergarten)*



*Maria Staves (Toddler Room)*



Natalie Currel joined the Toddler Room Team just before Christmas and is settling in well. She is becoming more confident in her role by the day. Well done Natalie.

## Staff Training

The nursery's main focus of training this year is to develop 'Reflective Practice'. This means to reflect on our existing practice in a whole range of areas and to improve and develop as appropriate. Although this is something that we have always prided ourselves on at Halesowen Day Nursery, it is a skill that we feel all staff need to develop.

We have recently developed and improved our internal staff training procedures and now have a fully comprehensive programme in place. As you may already know we provide bi-annual appraisal to all staff, so that we can support their personal development.

### TEAM LEADER MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Kate, Sam and Lisa attended three full days of Team Leadership training in October and November last year. The training was provided by the ILM - Institute of Leadership and Management and the course was very similar to what you may know as the 'NEBS' Management courses.

All three room leaders thoroughly enjoyed the training and have developed in confidence and expertise.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kate and all the room leaders for their on-going hard work and commitment to the children and the nursery as a whole. Thank you all for organising such calm and very enjoyable Christmas party's for the children this year - well done.

### OTHER TRAINING

Heidi, Marjorie and Stacey will be receiving various external Foundation Stage training through Dudley Early Years throughout this term and Charlotte and Maria will both be attending Birth to Three Matters training.

Various staff have elected to update and refresh their training in areas such as Health & Safety, Food Hygiene, Child Protection, Behaviour Management and Equal Opportunities.

Relief cover is always provided as necessary whenever staff attend training courses and the wealth of experience, knowledge and confidence being gleaned by staff is invaluable to the children.

## General Activities

### BABIES

These are early days for our new starters who are all settling in well and getting used to the new environment. Their individual needs are very apparent and is the main focus of Sam and Lauren as they strive to get to know the new babies and bond with them.

The babies are enjoying their new environment - especially the creative activities. They really enjoy dancing and bobbing up and down to music and moving their hands and feet to the rhythms they hear -they especially love being sung to.

All the babies are still thoroughly enjoying exploring the 'Treasure Baskets' - small wicker baskets containing everyday objects such as feather dusters, sponges, pot pourie, metal bowls and spoons, wooden objects, small interesting containers, and citrus fruit.

Most of the babies really enjoyed the Sponsored Obstacle Course - The children were asked to crawl over the soft play shapes, through a tunnel, onto the spinning chair, then clap their hands and walk to the end of the room. Well done to all you little ones who managed to get across.

Sam and Lauren have asked me let you know how much they appreciated the thank you cards they received when your babies moved up to the Toddler Room. Thank You again.



### TODDLERS

All our one year olds who have now moved up to the toddler room have settled down happily. Their physical progress is obvious, as they become more mobile and steadier on their feet. They are enjoying exploring their new

room and toys with their new carers.

As you would expect, before Christmas the



toddlers enjoyed a great deal of art and craft. There were numerous opportunities for Sticking, Painting, and colouring - all helping the children to develop fine motor skills. The Toddlers are communicating very well and making their needs known.

When Heidi brought her pet rabbit in from home the children were really excited - petting and stroking him and simply loving him!

Thank you Heidi.



Before Christmas almost all of the toddlers loved to play in the snow. Some just couldn't get enough of it - rolling around in it

trying to be snowmen, while others loved to stand below as Kate and Maria sprinkled it over their heads!

At the moment the toddlers are really enjoying dressing up and especially role-play with the dolls.

The Themes to be covered in the toddler room over the coming weeks include Winter, Colours, Under the sea and Numbers. The toddlers will continue to explore creative play through cardboard boxes, heuristic play, free painting, pasta play and dressing up. For photographs of the children at play, please ask the girls to show you their documentation folder or see the latest photographs of the children at play, at the toddler room doorway.

## KINDERGARTEN

When children move from the toddler room up to the Kindergarten, it's a whole new world. Over the last few weeks, Lisa, Charlotte and Rachel have been busy helping the children to adapt to a new stage in their lives. Many parents have commented on how well their children are settling in to the kindergarten.

Recently the children have been having fun exploring and experimenting with textures of sand, water with colour and bubbles, everyday objects through heuristic play and cooked pasta. They're also enjoying exploring loud and quiet sounds and keeping the beat in music and movement.



In personal and social development

the kindergarten children have been doing extremely well - developing independence by getting things for themselves - such as their coats and gloves when they're going outside, using cutlery and sitting at the table at meal times and obviously toilet training - well done everyone.

The new theme in the kindergarten is 'Winter' with weather and clothing being central focus. Through this theme the children are learning about the world around them and the staff are using ideas within the theme of winter to familiarise the children with basic shapes.

## PRE-SCHOOL

Over recent months the children in the Pre-School have enjoyed a great deal of creativity - as you would expect I suppose for the Christmas term, - but even more so through plenty of role-play, puppets and story-telling.

They have also been focusing on 'Healthiness' - healthy eating and why it is important to make healthy choices. They have been learning about their bodies and how exercise helps to keep them healthy. The pre-school have also introduced a healthy treat bag - for when the children have earned 10 stars.

The Dudley Dental Hygienist Eve Evans visited us in November and really enjoyed her visit. She remarked how well informed the children were as well as well behaved, confident and able to communicate their ideas and understanding. Well done children - we're proud of you all!

In line with this theme we all thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Stanley's Farm Shop. The children had the opportunity to see how vegetables and berries grow naturally and to pick and take



home as much as they could carry! A great time was had by all and the follow-up activities were fascinating to the children. Our thanks go to Maxine and Sue who accompanied us and helped with transportation.

Children who have moved into the pre-school recently are settling down well. Heidi and

Marjorie agree that the gradual settling in sessions held for the children before Christmas have really helped with this and have remarked at how eager the children seem to be to take on the new challenges.

Up until February half term, the curriculum focus will be 'MATHS' - concentrating mainly on measurement, number, colour and shape. Through stories, rhymes and projects the children will be experiencing 'Real Maths' in their world.

With building work about to commence in the near future, there are likely to be many opportunities for real maths especially as the home corner becomes a DIY workshop!

**ALSO - Continue to keep an eye on the Kindergarten and pre-school notice boards for any information that may be relevant to you and your child, and for details of how you can contribute to your child's learning.**

## News and Events

## Kindergarten, Pre-school & Toilet Refurbishment

*(Structural as well as cosmetic!)*

Over approximately 3 weekends we will be re-decorating and making some significant changes to the appearance of the Toilet area, Kindergarten and Preschool. Work is planned to commence on the weekend of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January, and the subsequent two weekends. *(Before this however the external kindergarten and pre-school doors will be replaced with a new UPVC window and door unit).*

Because the works can only be done over weekends and walls will be moved and changes made to ceilings and flooring, there is likely to be a fair bit of non-decoration and patchy flooring to live with for a couple of weeks - please do bear with us - As always we will ensure that the nursery is safe for the children and I'm sure you'll be happy with the results.



### Fun Quiz Night

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar 06 @  
7.30pm

FOR PARENTS AND STAFF

Please support our Quiz night by getting together with any other parents you know to make up **TEAMS OF 4**. Then complete a 'team' registration form and give it to a member of staff. If you would like to be part of a team but would prefer that we allocate you to one, then please complete an 'individual' registration form.

**Registration forms will be available soon at the nursery entrance.**

There will not be an entrance fee but you will be asked to make donations on the night and to nominate your team charity. All money raised will be given to the charity chosen by the winning team. Heidi will be our quizmaster and she won't take any bribes!! Arrangements for food and drink will be made nearer the time, but as a general idea we thought that a small buffet could be provided between us all and you can bring your own drink.

We're all looking forward to it, - it was great fun last year - so with your support it should be a really fun good night. Thank you

**Parents Survey** The bi-annual Parent survey will be sent out to you in March. Please take the time to complete this, as it gives us a good insight into how you feel about our service. Your feedback in the past has assured us of the many ways in which we are meeting your needs.

A graphical analysis will be available for you in due course

**Parent's Evening Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

**For Over 2's ONLY**

Parents of children in the Kindergarten and Pre-school are invited to our parents evening to review your child's individual progress.



Appointments will be made nearer the time

### Easter Fun Day Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Apr

#### • Easter Egg Hunt -

Throughout the day the children will enjoy Easter Egg Hunts around the play area. Children will search to find chocolate eggs - to be taken home at the end of the day. The smaller children will obviously be given plenty of help to find the eggs!!



#### Easter Bonnet Parade - 4pm

We would like to involve as many children as possible in our Easter Bonnet Parade. Bonnets need not be over extravagant, but simple and colourful. Staff will try to help you with ideas and may be able to provide suitable materials.

There will not be a winning bonnet, but all entrants will receive a prize and a certificate. All children will receive a small Easter egg

We hope you can fully enter into the spirit of the occasion and we look forward to admiring your Easter creations!



### 'MUSIC TOTS'

The 10 dates for the Wednesday sessions this term are:

**JANUARY: 18<sup>TH</sup>, 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**FEBRUARY: 1<sup>ST</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup> & 22<sup>ND</sup>**

**MARCH: 1<sup>ST</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup> 22<sup>ND</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup>**

2-3 yr olds 3.00-3.25pm £2/sess or £20/term

3-4 yr olds 3.25-4.00pm £2.50/sess or £25/term

**PLEASE PAY CASH ONLY IN ADVANCE WHERE POSSIBLE**



#### IT'S VERY COLD OUTSIDE AT THE

MOMENT - BUT 'THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS BAD WEATHER - ONLY BAD CLOTHING!'

Children benefit so much from being outdoors - being able to run around and get plenty of fresh air, so while the weather is so cold, would you all please ensure that your child has a warm coat, gloves, hat and scarf.

Thank you

### Changes in Personal Details

If you need to make any changes to the personal details we hold for you - change of address, telephone number/s, work contact number, work address, doctor etc., please ask Sam/Lauren in the baby room who will provide you with a 'Changes of Details' form, which should be completed and returned ASAP.

IT IS VITAL THAT THE INFORMATION WE HOLD FOR YOU IS ACCURATE.

**ALSO- IF YOU CAN ONLY BE CONTACTED ON A MOBILE NUMBER THAT YOUR MOBILE PHONES ARE ALWAYS KEPT SWITCHED ON. Thank You**

## Health Visitor Development Checks

Heidi has asked me to remind all parents whose children are due for development checks and who have signed the relevant permission slip, to contact their health visitor to make arrangements for their check to take place in nursery if it is more suitable. **Thank you**

## HAS YOUR CHILD GOT EVERYTHING THEY NEED FOR NURSERY?

Each child should have enough spare clothes in their bag to see them through any mishaps during the day. Please check for spare: cardigan/jumper; trousers/skirt; T-shirt; 2 or 3 pairs of socks and pants.



PLEASE REPLACE YOUR CHILD'S TOOTHBRUSH AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY.

**Please note that children who are TOILET TRAINING need an abundant supply of spare clothes.**

## Your Children's Health

This is the worst time of year for coughs and colds, chest infections and flu's, and we do all we can to prevent the spread of infection. Please continue to inform us about your children's illnesses as soon as they occur, as we can effectively contain bouts of stomach upset/contagious viruses etc. when we are kept well informed. Unfortunately it's not possible to bring your sick child to nursery, and we're very grateful to you all for ensuring your children are well enough to come here, and no longer contagious before bringing them back to nursery.

### Final message to all parents:

*May we again take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your continued support throughout the past year and to wish you all a very happy 2006.*

*Kindest regards*

*Alice, Heidi, Kate & all the staff x*

## Dates for Your Diary:

**First Music Tots:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan

**Quiz Night:** Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> March

**Parents Evening :** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March

**Final Music Tots :** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

**Easter Fun Day :** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April

**Good Friday (Closed) :** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April

**Easter Monday (Closed) :** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April